

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 4/14/10, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Jessica French, Jonathan Janik, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener; missing members: Ed Starr, Steve Kurland.

Visitors Present: Rob Russell, Heather Hewett, Roseanne Cassazza

1. Public Comments. Rob Russell and Heather Hewett, representing the “Reclaim Pleasant Street” organization, wanted to change what they thought were incorrect statements found in the minutes of March, 2010 TAC meeting. They are looking for remedies for speeding and crashes on Pleasant Street. Jeff suggested they submit a letter to TAC, and it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
2. Administration.
 - Minutes of 3/10/10 were approved unanimously.
 - Scott reported that the Nominating Committee would be recommending officers for the next meeting.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
 - New members were introduced.
3. Countdown pedestrian timers at Mass. Ave. and Route 60. Mike reported that he will be ordering new pedestrian countdown timers. Scott thought we should try to be consistent with Cambridge, whether they count down during the entire cycle or just when time is getting short. Howard will research operations of countdowns. Mike also reported that radar signs will be ordered for Summer Street near Peirce School.
4. Dallin 25% MassDOT Highway public hearing. Mike reported that the hearing brought out questions about drainage, and one question about tree removal. Any additional comments should be sent to MassDOT.
5. Traffic Supervisors. Elisabeth reported that traffic supervisor positions have been eliminated from the Town budget. Roseanne Cassazza, head of the Traffic Supervisors union, stated that every post is critical. There is a Town Meeting warrant article to assure Town funding for the positions, and she asked for TAC support. Elisabeth suggested the possibility of prioritizing locations and reducing some, and suggested that TAC form a working group to suggest priority locations and possibly look for funding. Jean, Elisabeth, John, Jessica, and Jonathan volunteered.
6. Green Line Extension. Congressman Ed Markey has requested an earmark to study extending the Green Line to Route 16/Mystic Valley Parkway. TAC would like to send a letter of support to Ed Markey. Richard Turcotte and Jonathan Janik volunteered to work with Laura on a draft.
7. Parking on N. Union St. Jean reported that new sidewalks have been installed which narrowed the roadway, making parking tight. She recommended looking at installing signs, such as No Parking Here to Corner, and restricting parking on the school side of Everett Street from Purcell to Broadway, and possibly look at installing a sign reading “No Entrance 8-10 am” on Decatur St. Lastly, look at limiting parking on Everett, Purcell, and Broadway. Scott noted that at this point signage won’t be up for this school year. Jeff asked for a visual presentation at the next meeting. TAC was contacted by Capital Planning Committee to evaluate Thompson School traffic patterns and help with design of new school. Money is available to collect data. Jeff suggested that a Thompson Working Group be formed and significant changes in parking on streets adjacent to the school be evaluated as part of the TAC evaluation for the new school. Scott, Jean, Elisabeth, Andy, and Ed volunteered.
8. Thermoplastic Review Plan. Mike will bring this to Dan Warren. Crosswalk in front of Sunrise Assisted Living in Arlington Heights will definitely get done.
9. Eustis Street. Howard is working on an outline, as well as guidelines for traffic calming.

10. Bike Safety at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Scott reported that the presentation was well received. Laura reported that there is a meeting May 13 where the Town will have a chance to defend its proposal for Clean Air and Mobility Program funds (CLAMP) for the Rte. 60/Mass. Ave intersection to improve the bikeway connection.
11. Schools.
 - a. Stratton—Ed and Annie will canvass the neighborhood regarding changes to street patterns to improve safe access to Stratton
12. Downing Square. Design funds are in the CDBG budget for this year, \$40,000. Design includes tightening up the intersection to shorten pedestrian crossings.
13. Bus Shelters. TAC got the go-ahead from Selectmen to choose locations for shelters, and then schedule a public meeting, to include the MBTA. Laura and Jean will meet with Clarissa to look at locations.
14. Brigham's site. 116 rental units planned. Still waiting on Traffic Report. ARB hearing scheduled for June 14. Richard and Jessica will join working group. Jessica would like to know if participating on working group would preclude her bidding on projects in the future.
15. Paul Revere Road. Mike reported that a survey is needed before taking on recommendations for improving this intersection.
16. Town Updates. Mike reported that culvert work was set back by the storms by about 5 weeks. The bike path repair is complete. Forest Street is still not funded. Washington Street is going to be paved. There will be a water project near Trader Joe's to correct infiltration into the sewer.
17. New members and Working Groups. The following new members joined Working Groups as follows:
 - a. Richard—Brigham's, Green Line, Traffic Calming
 - b. Jessica—Brigham's, Traffic Supervisors
 - c. Jonathan—Traffic Supervisors, Green Line, Traffic Calming
 - d. Andy—Thompson School, CLAMP/Rte. 60/Mass. Ave., Brigham's.
18. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

- Ed's Meeting Package:
- 1) Agenda 4/14/10; 2) Members of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, 4/12/10; 3) Memo from TAC to Board of Selectmen Re. Bicycle Lanes on Park Avenue, dated March 17, 2010; 4) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 4/14/10; 5) Project Status, dated 4/14/10; 6) Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 4/14/10; 7) Draft Actions from 3/10 TAC Meeting; 8) 2009 Thermoplastic Crosswalks List; 9) Clean Air and Mobility Program application, due April 1; 10) Memo from Transportation Advisory Committee to Board of Selectmen Re. MBTA Bus Shelters, dated January 15, 2010.
- Minutes of 3/10/10.